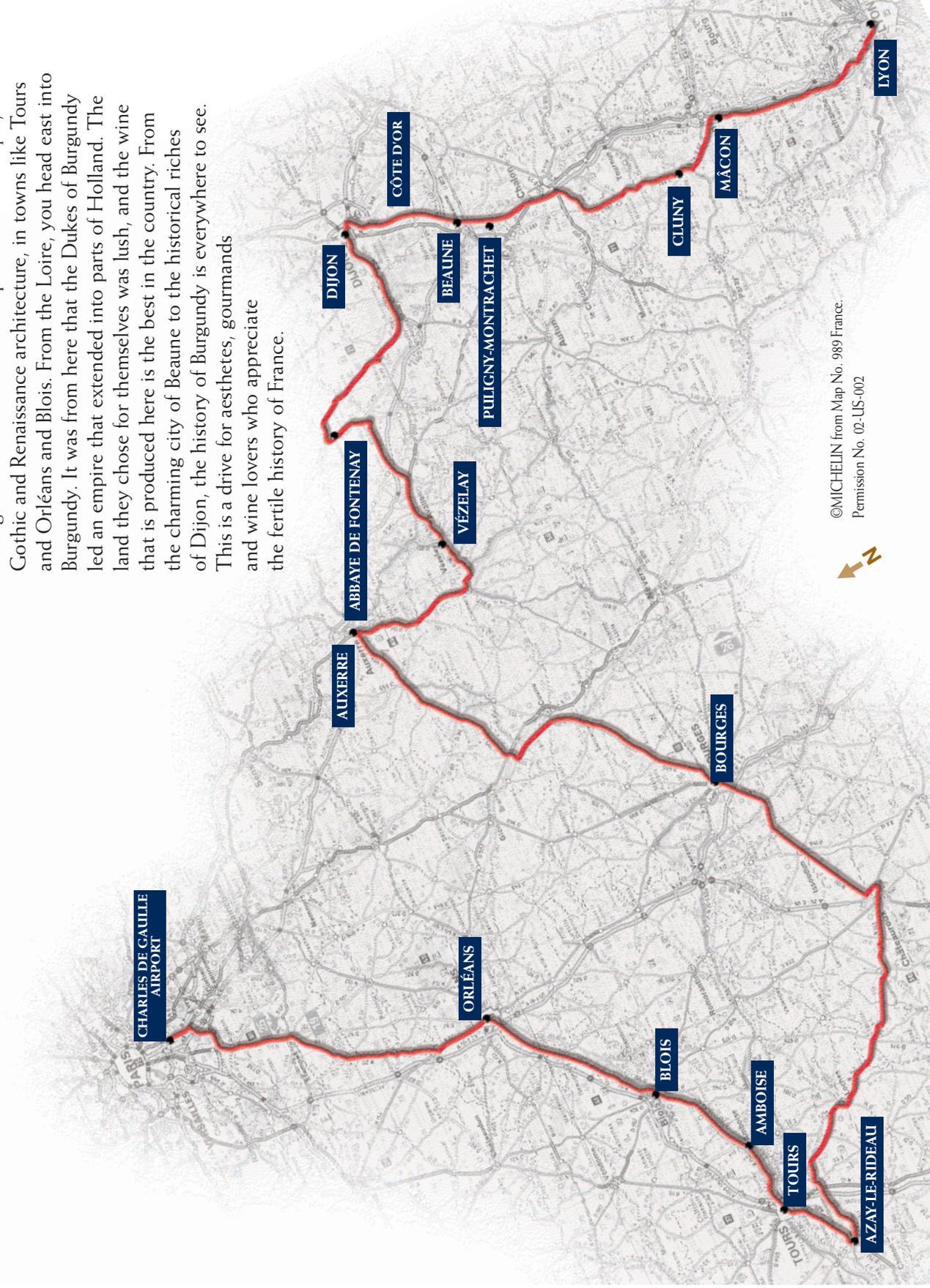


# LOIRE VALLEY CHÂTEAUX & BURGUNDY

MAGNIFICENT CHÂTEAUX, THE GLORIOUS RIVER LOIRE AND THE LEGENDARY JOAN OF ARC are only a few of the attractions of this itinerary. The Loire Valley is celebrated for its beauty, for the important role it has played in French history as well as its splendid wine. This drive takes you through some of the finest examples of Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance architecture, in towns like Tours and Orléans and Blois. From the Loire, you head east into Burgundy. It was from here that the Dukes of Burgundy led an empire that extended into parts of Holland. The land they chose for themselves was lush, and the wine that is produced here is the best in the country. From the charming city of Beaune to the historical riches of Dijon, the history of Burgundy is everywhere to see. This is a drive for aesthetes, gourmands and wine lovers who appreciate the fertile history of France.



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## LOIRE VALLEY CHÂTEAUX & BURGUNDY

*(Mileage is estimated from each preceding city or site. Before you begin your trip, please note: For space reasons, we could not provide the most detailed map with this brochure. We recommend the use of Michelin Map #989 France in conjunction with this guide.) To order Michelin maps, call 1-800-223-0987.*

### CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT—

The major gateway to Paris and the rest of France, the airport lies just outside of Paris and is a fine starting point for an exploration of the Loire Valley and Burgundy.

### 101 miles

**ORLÉANS—**With its Renaissance façades, Orléans is best known as the city of Jeanne d'Arc, or Joan of Arc. It was here that the maid of Orléans saved France from the English in 1429. Since her martyrdom in Rouen in 1431, she has been revered, and nowhere more than in Orléans. Be sure to explore Vieil Orléans, the old quarter bounded by the cathedral, the Loire River and the Place du Martroi. The latter is a lively square, with cafés and bars and a statue of Joan. Nearby is the half-timbered Maison Jeanne d'Arc, a reconstruction of a building where Joan lived in 1429. From Place du Martroi, you can follow Rue d'Escures, which leads you past some fine Renaissance mansions. The finest is the Hotel Gröslot, a 16th-century mansion that welcomed King Charles IX, Henri III and Henri IV. Finally, pause at the Cathédrale Sainte-Croix. Begun in the 13th century, it was finished in the Gothic style between the 17th and 19th centuries.

### 38 miles

**BLOIS—**This town rose to prominence as a royal domain in the 15th century. Blois' historic façades and architectural splendor are what enthralls visitors. Start in *Vieux Blois*, the old part of the city, which is a hilly area that encompasses the château, the cathedral and the Loire River. Take the "Route Royale," which is a signposted walk past some of the most impressive mansions in Blois. The highlight is the Château de Blois. This was France's principal royal residence until Henri IV moved the court to Paris in 1598. There are four contrasting yet harmonious wings to the château, filled with paintings and elaborate spiral staircases. Later, you can visit the splendid Place St. Louis, with its 17th-century houses. Among them are the Maison des Acrobates, which was devoted to medieval jugglers and acrobats.

### 23 miles

**AMBOISE—**Royal history was made behind the walls of Château d'Amboise. It was the home of Louis XI, Charles VIII was born and died here; and François I and Catherine de' Medici were often in residence. It's the perfect setting for courtly intrigue, and indeed, the château was the setting for the Amboise Conspiracy from 1560. This was a plot by the Huguenots against François II that was famously foiled. On the ramparts is the Chapelle St.

Hubert, a Gothic chapel believed to be the burial place of Leonardo da Vinci. The artist lived in Amboise during the end of his life, residing in a nearby house called Clos-Lucé. Today, the house has models of some of Leonardo's mechanical inventions.

### 16 miles

**TOURS—**The center of the Loire Valley, Tours has been wonderfully kept and tastefully restored. Built on the site of a Roman town, it became an important center of Christianity in the 4th century, and Louis XI made Tours the capital of France. But time and wars took their toll, and Tours crumbled. Starting in the late 1950s, an aggressive restoration led to the rebirth of this marvelous town. Start your exploration in the Place Plumereau, located in the medieval center of the city, a place of boutique and cafés. And if you walk some of the side streets, such as Rue Briçonnet, you'll find a magical world of half-timbered façades and courtyards. Take more time and see the extravagant 13th-century Cathédrale St. Gatien, the Musée des Beaux-Arts and the wine museum located in the Eglise St. Julien.

### 16 miles

**AZAY-LE-RIDEAU—**Château Azay-le-Rideau was the creation of Philippa Lesbath, the wife of François I's finance minister. It may look like a fortified place, with its Gothic turrets and its moat, but it was in fact devoted purely to pleasure. Inside you'll find period furniture and family portraits, as well as some exceptional tapestries. The four-story grand staircase is an architectural treat.

### 111 miles

**BOURGES—**This walled city was originally a Gallo-Roman settlement. Its heyday came when it was the lair of Jacques Coeur, the financier and foreign minister to Charles VII. A famed merchant, Coeur was also a patron of the arts who commissioned such works as the illuminated manuscript "Les Très Riches Heures du Duc de Berry." Tour the Palais Jacques Coeur, and later visit St. Etienne, an exemplary Gothic cathedral. The 13th-century stained glass windows were donated by the local guilds and are masterpieces of the art form. The medieval quarter of Bourges has been well preserved and is worth walking through. If you have more time, hire a boat for a brief paddle through the "water meadows" outside the town.

### 89 miles

**AUXERRE—**Now you've left the Loire and you've entered Burgundy. The town of Auxerre has a marvelous situation overlooking the Yonne River. Begin your perambulations at Place Charles-Surugue, the main square, and then carry on to the Cathédrale St. Etienne. Finished in 1560 after nearly 300 years of labor, it has stunning 13th-century stained glass windows and a Romanesque crypt.

### 32 miles

**VEZELAY—**This is one town where you can literally follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims, by making the ascent up time-worn steps to the Basilique Ste. Madeleine on Vézelay's highest hilltop. The reason for those pilgrims was the belief, during the 12th century, that this former abbey held the remains of Mary Magdalene. It later became one of the starting points for the famed pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Today, this Romanesque church is best appreciated for its Gothic choir and 12th-century sculpture.

### 40 miles

**ABBAYE DE FONTENAY—**The oldest surviving Cistercian abbey in France, Fontenay is tranquility personified. Its Romanesque and early Gothic architecture exude a real sense of calm. You can tour the Cloisters, where 12th-century monks meditated. Look at the oven in the 13th-century bakehouse. Or stroll the herb garden that has been under cultivation for centuries.

### 50 miles

**DIJON—**The name "Dijon" may well evoke the famous mustard that is still made here, but the city of Dijon is also an architectural feast, a legacy of the Dukes of Burgundy. The dukes built one of the most powerful states in Europe, and their portions of what is now Holland. Great patrons, they supported such European painters as the van Eyck brothers and the sculptor Claus Sluter. You can start your immersion in Dijon by visiting the Palais des Ducs, where the city's greatest artistic treasures are stored in what is now known



as the Musée des Beaux Arts. But Dijon has many more treasures, like Rue Verrerie, a cobbled street in the old merchants' quarters that's lined with half-timbered houses, and the Place Darcy, with its lively cafés and restaurants.

**CÔTE D'OR**— This is one of the greatest stretches of wine country in the world. Comprising the Côte de Beaune and the Côte de Nuits, these vineyards stretch for about 30 miles, all the way from Dijon to Santenay. The soil, which has a golden-reddish tone, is where the famed deep reds and the lively white grapes of Burgundy's best vintages are grown. The towns, with names like Nuits-St. Georges, Vosne-Romanée and Chassagne Montrachet, can make you feel as if you're driving through a wine list.

27 miles

**BEAUNE**— About halfway through the Côte D'Or, you'll come to Beaune. The seat of the Burgundian wine trade, Beaune is simply one of the most charming little cities in France, with walls hung with wisteria, lilacs everywhere, and stone ramparts that enclose a magical garden. The Hôtel-Dieu is the centerpiece—a hospice dating from 1443 with the multicolored roof tiles that are a hallmark of Burgundian architecture. Today, it's known in the wine trade as the home of the charity wine auction, "Les Trois Glorieuses," held for three days every November. If you're not here in November, then content yourself with a visit to the Musée du Vin de Bourgogne.

7 miles

**PULLIGNY-MONTRACHET**— This little town is one of the classic stops on the Côte d'Or trail, a place worth stopping for lunch, a brief wine tasting, or a walk through the sleepy streets of a typical French wine village.

38 miles

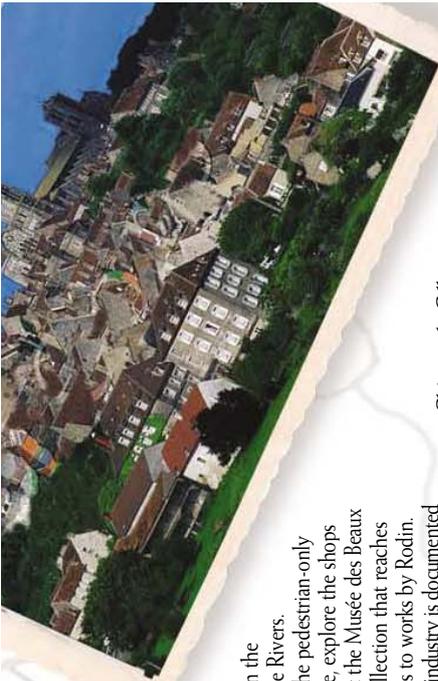
**CLUNY**— This pleasant town centers around its famous abbey, the Ancienne Abbaye St. Pierre et St. Paul. This was once one of the most important monastic centers in all of Europe. Founded by William of Pious, the Duke of Aquitaine, in 910, Cluny sent out 100 monks who set up literally hundreds of monasteries throughout the continent. The system collapsed around the 14th century, and the impressive abbey is all that remains.

16 miles

**MÂCON**— A center of the wine trade on the Saone River, Mâcon is a pleasant place to spend a morning. The market on the Place aux Herbes can be quite colorful. And do have a look at the adjacent 15th-century Maison de Bois, famed for its carved façade.

46 miles

**LYON**— The second city of France, Lyon is perhaps best known as the country's gastronomic capital, the home of chef Paul Bocuse and dozens of other lauded culinary artists. But it's an appealing city on so many levels. Start with its extraordinary architectural heritage, from Gallo-Roman remains to the Renaissance splendor of the old city. In Old Lyon, along the west bank of the Saone River, you'll find cobblestone streets, covered passages, ways known as "traboules," and great bistros. You'll also find two Roman amphitheaters, including the Théâtres Romains, the oldest theater in France, which dates from 15 BC. Then cross



over to Presqu'île, the narrow peninsula of the city that lies between the Rhone and the Saone Rivers.

Walk slowly along the pedestrian-only Rue de la République, explore the shops and bistros, and visit the Musée des Beaux Arts, which has a collection that reaches from Etruscan statues to works by Rodin. The city's famed silk industry is documented at the Musée Historique des Tissus as well as the Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

## HOTELS

**La Tour Rose**. Philippe Chauvent's silk-swathed hotel occupies several houses around a courtyard. The glass-roofed restaurant was once a chapel. Each of the 12 rooms is named for an old silk factory and is plushly decorated. 22 rue du Boeuf, Lyon. Tel: 33 04 78 37 25 90 Fax: 33 04 78 42 26 02 For reservations in the USA: 800 735 2478

**Les Hautes Roches**. This former monastery has 11 rooms and is situated on the Loire River. It is a classic example of 18th-century splendor. The restaurant is famed for its fish menu as well as Loire Valley wines. 86 quai de la Loire, Rochecorbon. Tel: 33 02 47 52 88 88 Fax: 33 02 47 52 81 30 For reservations in the USA: 800 735 2478

**Domaine des Hauts de Loire**. This magnificent hunting lodge, built in 1860 by the famous publisher Panckoucke, is secluded in tranquil parkland. The 34 guestrooms boast painted beams. Route de Herbault, Onzain. Tel: 33 02 54 20 72 57 Fax: 33 02 54 20 77 32 For reservations in the USA: 800 735 2478

## Château de Gilly.

Located in the heart of Burgundy's most revered wine-growing country, between Dijon and Beaune, it combines a 14th-century Cistercian monastery with a 17th-century château. Surrounded by formal gardens, the restaurant is housed in a stone vaulted cellar. Gilly-les Cîteaux, Vougeot. Tel: 33 03 80 62 89 98 Fax: 33 03 80 62 82 34

**Hôtel Le Cep**. A former private residence here in the major wine town of Burgundy, it has a tower, courtyards and a garden. There's an abundance of antiques in the 57-room property, and the restaurant, Le Morrillon, serves creative cuisine. 27 Rue Maufoux, Beaune. Tel: 33 03 80 22 35 48 Fax: 33 03 80 22 76 80

**Bourgogne**. You'll find this wonderful old auberge next to the Cluny abbey. There are just 12 rooms, and the hotel's restaurant is a gastronomic delight. Place de L'Abbaye, Cluny. Tel: 33 03 85 59 00 58 Fax: 33 03 85 59 03 73

## RESTAURANT

**Hostellerie de Levernois**. In a tranquil riverside setting complete with cedars, weeping willows and an ancient water wheel, this hotel features a fine Burgundian kitchen and more than 800 vintages. Route de Verdun-sur-le-Doubs, Beaune. Tel: 33 03 80 24 73 58 Fax: 33 03 80 22 78